



Note of the Scottish Cities Alliance Leadership Group meeting

Tuesday 21st February 2017 - Perth

Attendance:-

Cllr Ken Guild	Leader, Dundee City Council
Gregor Hamilton	Head of Economic Development, Dundee
Cllr Andrew Burns	Chair & Leader, City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Frank McAveety	Leader, Glasgow City Council
Annemarie O'Donnell	Chief Executive, Glasgow City Council
Cllr Ian Miller	Leader, Perth and Kinross Council
Jim Valentine	Perth and Kinross Council
Cllr Johanna Boyd	Leader, Stirling Council
Stewart Carruth	Chief Executive, Stirling Council
Oonagh Gil	Deputy Director for Enterprise and Cities, Scottish Government
Aileen Edwards	Programme Director, Scottish Cities Alliance

Also in attendance:-

Sharon Miller	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Iain Eddyshaw	Cities Team, Scottish Government
Professor Donald Houston	SCKC (item 3)
Dr. Georgiana Varna	SCKC (item 3)
Amy Braddick	Low Carbon Project Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance (items 1- 6)
Jim Hayton	Housing Adviser, Scottish Cities Alliance (items 1-6)
Iain McCreaddie	Policy Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance
Lillian McDowall	Communications Manager, Scottish Cities Alliance
Isabel McDermid	Administrator, Scottish Cities Alliance

Apologies:-

Cllr Jennifer Laing	Leader, Aberdeen City Council
Angela Scott	Chief Executive, Aberdeen City Council
David Martin	Chief Executive, Dundee City Council
Andrew Kerr	Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council
Councillor Margaret Davidson	Leader, Highland Council
Steve Barron	Chief Executive, Highland Council
Bernadette Malone	Chief Executive, Perth and Kinross Council
Keith Brown MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work

Note of meeting

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Introductions were made and apologies were tabled as noted above. The Chair thanked Perth for hosting the meeting.

It was noted that this is the last meeting of the current Leadership Group, prior to Local Government election in May 2017. A letter was tabled from Keith Brown, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, thanking the Chair and all Leaders for their contribution and commitment to the work carried out through the Alliance. The Chair will respond formally on behalf of the group.

2. Note of Previous Meeting

The note of the previous meeting on 24th October 2016 was approved and will now be published on the Alliance website.

Strategic Discussions

3. Inclusive Growth in Scotland's City-Regions

Professor Donald Houston, SCKC spoke to the Inclusive Growth in Scotland's Cities Report and presented the findings and recommendations contained therein.

The group welcomed the findings and recommendations of the report. It was noted that this agenda was a key element in the current and emerging City Deals and cities were progressing a range of projects to reduce inequalities created by health, unemployment and poverty. It was also noted that the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission was due to report in March 2017 and it was suggested that the report be updated to reflect both work on inequalities in the City Deals as well as the recommendations of this report. The Scottish Government also advised that a diagnostic tool has been developed to understand the barriers to inclusive growth and this will be available to cities to use.

The group agreed that the opportunity for the Alliance or cities to sign up to the OECD New York Proposal for Inclusive Growth in Cities should be explored further. It was agreed that the SCKC would explore the full implications of for the Alliance to make this commitment and share their findings with the new Leadership Group in due course.

In light of the anticipated changes in membership of the Leadership Group post the May elections, it was agreed that the report be updated to reflect the comments from the group and for this to be presented and discussed at the next Leadership Group meeting scheduled in September 2017 for agreement on next steps.

The Chair thanked Professor Houston and Dr. Varna for their contribution and input.

4. Enterprise and Skills Review, Phase 2

Scottish Government advised that Phase 2 of the Enterprise and Skills Review is now being progressed through nine workstreams and that information on the work of these groups and key contacts has been shared with the cities as per the papers tabled. It was noted that the cities had provided a strong response to Phase 1 and were keen to understand how they could continue to contribute to the work and outcomes of the Phase 2.

Scottish Government advised that there is no consultation period within Phase 2, but that the cities could contribute to the review through the lead contact for each of the workstreams as well as through other groups such as CoSLA and SLAED.

In terms of the future engagement with Phase 2 of the review, it was agreed that the Scottish Government would include the cities as a "critical friend" on both the International and Regional Partnerships workstreams as these were closely related to the focus of the Alliance.

Operational Decisions

5. Low Carbon Programme Update

Amy Braddick, Low Carbon Project Manager, gave a comprehensive overview of the Low Carbon work the Alliance is progressing and the achievements to date. The Leadership Group fully endorsed the proposed future programme of work and reaffirmed their commitment to this programme of work. It was noted that the Low Carbon Project Manager will be presenting at the Scottish Renewables Conference on 22nd February, raising the profile of this programme.

The Chair thanked Amy for her refreshing presentation, which demonstrated a high volume of collaboration taking place, and in particular the sharing of best practice across the cities.

6. European Housing Partnership

Jim Hayton, Housing Advisor, spoke to the tabled paper.

The chair noted the significant progress that has been made in raising the profile of the Alliance through our participation on the Partnership, and in particular the lead role the Alliance has taken on the Funding Issues workstream and associated EU cities research on affordable housing. The intention to host a meeting of the EHP in Glasgow in September 2017 where the outcome of the research will be presented was discussed and the opportunity for the Scottish cities to share best practice in affordable housing provision during this event was noted.

7. Achievements of Alliance

The Programme Director gave an update on key achievements made by the Alliance from 2012-2016 and thanked the Leadership Group and officers across the partners for their support which has been integral to the success of the operational programmes.

The Leadership Group noted the significant progress and successes achieved through the collaborative work of the Alliance partnership from 2012-2016 and noted and endorsed the Alliance's Operational Programme 2017-2018.

It was agreed that the new Leadership Group should consider and agree the strategic focus and associated operational and funding structure of the Alliance at their first meeting in September 2017. It was also agreed that the Cabinet Secretary be invited to attend the informal meeting of the city Leaders in June.

The Chair asked that the group raise awareness of the work being carried out by the Alliance and it was agreed that a copy of the paper detailing the achievements of the Alliance should be circulated more widely within the Councils.

On behalf of the Leadership Group, the Chair thanked the Programme Director and the core team for their efforts and achievements, and for the support given to the group and cities over the past years.

8. Cities Investment Fund – Budget Update

The Cities Investment Fund budget report detailing approved spend and drawdowns to 31st December 2016 was noted and the Leadership Group approved the summarised version of the Budget be published on the Alliance website.

Scottish Government confirmed that there is no time limit for spend on the CIF budget.

9. AOB

9.1 The Programme Director gave an overview of a successful application submitted by the Alliance to participate in the World Cities Programme 2017-2018. Further detail will be presented to the Leadership Group meeting in September 2017.

9.2 The Chair thanked the Scottish Government and civil servants, for their support, and to the Alliance core team and staff within the cities for their collaborative way of working.

On behalf of the group, Perth thanked the Chair for his leadership of the Alliance and for the progress this has achieved.

10. Dates of Future Meetings

Delivery Group – 25th April 2017 – Stirling

City Leaders – 7th June 2017 – TBC

CEO Group - 9th August 2017 – TBC

Leadership Group – 6th September 2017 – TBC

Meeting finished at 11.40am